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NEWS AND NOTES.

The MATHEMATICS TEACHER attempts, through the News and Notes Section, to keep its readers informed concerning current activities, news items, programs of future meetings, and accounts of articles which have appeared in other publications.

Philadelphia is conducting a self survey of its schools. J. A. Foberg, recently appointed state supervisor of mathematics, is conducting the survey of mathematics.

Professor W. W. Hart of the University of Wisconsin was elected president of the Central Association of Science and Mathematics Teachers; M. J. Newell of Evanston, Illinois, was reelected chairman of the Mathematics Section.

The January number of *School Review* contains an article on "Junior High School Mathematics" by Mr. E. R. Breslich. In this paper Mr. Breslich presents an outline of the material which he recommends for the seventh grade.

On Friday, December 3, The Association of Teachers of Mathematics in New England joined with the New England Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools and several other educational associations in a dinner held at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. The dinner was followed by brief addresses which made the occasion a fitting preliminary to the annual meeting of the Association of Teachers of Mathematics in New England which was held the following day. If the plans now under consideration are matured, there will be such a gathering of associations at the time of our annual meeting each year. The secretaries of the associations which participate in this meeting will comprise a committee to formulate a program for the two or three days devoted to the individual and joint meetings.

The annual meeting of this association was held at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and the following program was offered:

How we Teach Equations to Beginners, Harry C. Barber, English High School, Boston.

Magic in the Algebra Class, Henry P. McLaughlin, English High School, Boston.

How I Teach Locus Problems in Geometry, Fred D. Aldrich, Worcester Academy.

The Mathematics of Insurance, Professor Clinton H. Currier, Brown University.

Graphical Methods of Computation, Professor Joseph Lipka, Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

The following officers were elected for 1921: President, Walter F. Downey, English High School, Boston; Vice-President, Professor Clinton H. Currier, Brown University; Treasurer, Harold B. Garland, High School of Commerce, Boston; Members of Council, William L. Vosburgh, Boston Normal School, Miss Gertrude E. Preston, Dana Hall, Wellesley, Mass. (Contributed by H. D. Gaylord.)

The first meeting of the Connecticut Valley Section of the Association of Teachers of Mathematics in New England was held at Hartford, Connecticut, November 6, 1920. The following program was given: Morning—Informal Reception, Business Meeting, Some Geometric Notions by Mr. Murtach M. S. Moriarty, Holyoke High School; The Need of More Fundamental Training in the Fundamental Arithmetical Processes for the Student of the Exact Sciences by Professor Emma P. Carr, Head of Department of Chemistry, Mount Holyoke College; Afternoon—Preliminary Report of the National Committee on College Entrance Requirements by Mr. Walter F. Downey, English High School, Boston; The Mathematics of the Freshman Year at Yale by Professor W. R. Longley, Sheffield Scientific School, Yale University.

Mr. Henry B. Marsh, Technical High School, Springfield, Mass., is the Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Connecticut Valley Section. (Contributed by H. D. Gaylord.)

Mr. H. E. Webb of the Central High School, Newark, N. J., has contributed a number of discussions in *The American Mathematical Monthly*. The latest paper, "Complex Numbers in Advanced Algebra," appears in the November issue.

Mr. J. Calvin Funk, head of the department of mathematics in Polytechnic High School, Mill Valley, California, writes, in the journal of the State Teachers Association:

"While the high school should articulate with the college, yet its true function is to serve not only those who desire to go to college, but also the rank and file, ninety per cent. of whom will not enter the doors of a higher institution of learning. It is absolutely unjust for the high school to take advantage of the relatively helpless situation of the student and throw at him any kind of mathematics in a form that has very little meaning to him with reference to his life career. That is what the schools are doing by teaching conventional mathematics in the first two years, and especially in the first year."

The Mathematics Section of the New York State Teachers Association met in Rochester, November 23, in connection with the annual meeting of the association. The attendance was larger than for several years past, about 300 being present.

The program was as follows:

The Proper Correlation of Intermediate Algebra, Trigonometry and Solid Geometry in the Senior High School, G. R. Merick, East High School, Rochester, N. Y.

Recent Tendencies in Secondary Mathematics, Dr. Fletcher Durell, Lawrenceville, N. J.

Suggestions on the Teaching of Mathematics from Observations in the Field, F. Eugene Seymour, Specialist in Mathematics, Education Department, Albany, N. Y.

Junior High School Mathematics, J. W. Young, Chairman of National Committee on Mathematical Requirements.

Motivation of First Lessons in Junior High School Geometry. Illustrated by lantern slides. William Betz, Rochester. (Contributed by R. L. Countryman.)

From the report of the Missouri Section of the Mathematical Association of America: "The committee appointed by the Section to co-operate with the National Committee presented through its chairman, Professor E. R. Hedrick of the University of Missouri, a report on the preliminary report on Junior High School Mathematics by the National Committee. The opinions of the Sectional Committee were, in general, favorable to the recommendations made by the National Committee, but a considerable number of detailed remarks and suggestions were made. The only one of these which is far-reaching

enough to be mentioned here is the recommendation to the National Committee that the work in demonstrative geometry ought not to be included in the junior high school. The committee was entirely in favor of leading up to demonstrative geometry, but felt that the work in the junior high schools should stop short of actual demonstrative work.

The following officers were elected for the coming year: Chairman, Professor Louis Ingold, University of Missouri; Vice-chairman, Professor Robert R. Fleet, William Jewell College; Secretary-Treasurer, Professor Paul R. Rider, Washington University." (By Professor Paul R. Rider, Secretary-Treasurer.)

The Mathematics Section of the Missouri Society of Science and Mathematics Teachers held its annual meeting November 11, in Kansas City, William A. Luby presiding. Professor U. G. Mitchell, of Kansas University, addressed the meeting on 'The Unification of Elementary Mathematics.' Mr. Austin C. Andrews speaking for the Kansas City committee appointed to study the reports of the National Committee, gave a brief review of the Preliminary Report on Junior High School Mathematics. Mr. Alfred Davis of St. Louis addressed the meeting on the work and the importance of the National Committee and urged the cooperation of every teacher of mathematics during the current school year. Mr. Davis also explained the purpose and the needs of the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics and of its journal, *THE MATHEMATICS TEACHER*. The section voted to become an institutional member of the Council, and a number of individuals joined.

The meeting was largely attended. Many who wished to attend could not enter the crowded room. There is a vital interest in mathematics among the teachers of Missouri.

The officers elected for the following year are: President, Alfred Davis, Soldan High School, St. Louis; Secretary, Eula A. Weeks, Cleveland High School, St. Louis.

Dr. E. R. Hedrick, of the University of Missouri, addressed the Division of Secondary Schools of the Missouri State Teachers' Association assembled in Kansas City, November 12.

His topic was 'A Revised Course in Secondary Mathematics.' The work of the National Committee on Mathematical Requirements was the theme. Dr. Hedrick said that no one should hereafter express an opinion on the content of secondary courses in mathematics who had not read the reports of this Committee. (Contributed by a member.)

Notes of the Mathematics Club of St. Louis and vicinity: At the first meeting, in November, Miss Riefing, of the Soldan High School, discussed recent publications of interest to teachers of mathematics. Charles Ammerman, of the McKinley High School, led a round table discussion on factoring in elementary algebra. Miss Eula Weeks, of the Cleveland High School, who is also a member of the National Committee on Mathematical Requirements, led a live discussion on elective courses in high-school mathematics. It is hoped that more advanced courses than are usually given in high schools might be included in these courses. However, they are to pre-suppose two years of required mathematics in the ordinary high school.

The club plans to devote most of its meetings this year to cooperating with the National Committee in the discussion of its reports as they appear. December 4, Mr. J. A. Foberg, vice-chairman of the National Committee, led the discussion on Junior High School Mathematics. January 8, Professor Hedrick discussed The Function Concept in Secondary School Mathematics. February 5, Dr. Paul Rider, of Washington University, discussed College Entrance Requirements in Mathematics. All of these discussions are to be based on reports of the committee. Later in the year the National Committee will be the guests of the St. Louis Club. The officers for the year are: President, Alfred Davis, Soldan High School; Secretary-Treasurer, Meta Eitzen, Yeatman High School. (Contributed by Mr. Davis.)

The annual meeting of the Mathematics Section of the Washington State Educational Association was held at Yakima, October 28. Professor Walter C. Eells of the department of Applied Mathematics, Whitman College, gave an address on the "Work of the National Committee on Mathematical Requirements" and discussed in detail their provi-

sional report on Junior High School Mathematics. The entire session was devoted to a spirited discussion of the report of the committee. The sentiment of the meeting on the whole was very favorable to the report.

One suggestion that was put forward with considerable vigor was that there should be a differentiation at the end of the second high-school year, and that the third year should be separated into three or four courses, one designed for girls with application to household management, etc.; one for industrial pursuits; one looking toward business, and one for Academic or College Entrance requirements.

The most serious objection to the feature of the report which suggests that the mathematics courses of the junior high school should be considered as a unit, was that there were few, if any, texts suitable for such a course.

A committee from the section was appointed to consider the report in detail and to present its findings to the National Committee at an early date. Mr. R. E. Cook, Superintendent of Schools at Chehalis, was elected chairman of the section for the coming year.

The Mathematics Section of the Nebraska State Teachers Association met November 5, 1920, with Miss Stella B. Kirker presiding. Dr. A. L. Gandy of the State University, who has made an extensive study of mathematics in European countries and the United States, gave his findings by means of the lantern and slides. It developed that in nearly all of the countries mathematics (in some form) is a required subject for a greater length of time than in the United States.

Dr. J. W. Young, of Dartmouth College, gave a summary of the mathematical requirements which have been recommended by the National Committee. During the session Mr. Young asked that a committee be appointed to represent the state in this work and to spread the reports abroad among the teachers of the state. A committee of three has been appointed with Mr. C. W. Brenke, of the State University, Lincoln, as chairman. (Contributed by Lorena J. Lewis, Secretary.)

The Mathematics Section of the Central Ohio Teachers' Association met in Columbus, Ohio, October 29, 1920. Mr. E. Forrest Bobb, Springfield High School, presided.

The first number on the program was a paper on 'What are the Essentials?—A plea for a more intelligible vocabulary in teaching Algebra,' by J. C. Boldt, Steele High School, Dayton. Mr. Boldt made a plea for the elimination of overworked terms, such as 'change of signs,' 'cancel,' and 'transposition.' He thought that multiplication should be taught before subtraction or parentheses and that nests of parentheses should be eliminated.

Mr. Branter led in the discussion of this paper. He agreed in the main with what Mr. Boldt said but saw no reason for eliminating the word 'transposition.'

The second paper on 'Some Experiments in Teaching Geometry' was presented by Mr. L. E. Coulter, Douglass Intermediate School, Columbus, Ohio. He stressed the fact that the teacher must understand both the subject matter and the child. From selections in a set of exercises he has worked out, he showed how the pupil is led to discover truth for himself and to demonstrate the propositions of geometry.

In the business session which followed, the report of the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics was endorsed.

The newly elected officers for 1921 are Mr. Edward Branter, of Springfield, president, and Miss Anna C. Mason, Columbus, secretary. (Contributed by Amy F. Preston, Secretary.)